



## News Release

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### **THOMPSON ATTENDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

Brian Thompson, Director of External Affairs for the Cross County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corp., recently attended Year II of the Community Development Institute (CDI). The 23rd annual CDI session was held at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Aug. 3 - 7. The complete institute experience involves progressing through a curriculum of more than 100 hours with corporate, academic and governmental professionals serving as faculty.

Teamwork Arkansas, the economic development office of Entergy Arkansas, awarded Thompson with a grant to attend the Institute.

"CDI, through assistance from Teamwork, will provide me with tools I can utilize to help improve my community and with a better understanding of how to take advantage of the vast network of partners around the state," said Thompson.

The CDI was established in 1987 to address the needs of professionals who wish to further develop their skills and understanding, as well as those in the community who have limited or no formal training. The Institute seeks to develop the participants' ability to identify community problems, set goals, encourage liaisons with outside agencies, stimulate community interaction, and bring groups together to respond to a wide range of economic development, human resource development, and quality of life issues.

CDI was founded by a coalition led by Teamwork Arkansas staff members and is endorsed by the Community Development Council. It is recognized nationally as the flagship institution for Community Development Training. Teamwork Arkansas is dedicated to partnering with Arkansas communities to help them enhance their ability to create wealth and raise the standard of living for their citizens. For more information about Teamwork Arkansas resources available to Arkansas communities, contact Entergy Arkansas Community Development Consultant Flave Carpenter at (501) 377-4441 or [fcarpen@entergy.com](mailto:fcarpen@entergy.com).

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